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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 95BUCHAREST6434, ROMANIAN PRESIDENT ION ILIESCU - A POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#95BUCHAREST6434**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
95BUCHAREST6434	1995-06-23 11:53	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bucharest

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.kamikazeonline.ro/2011/04/si-ion-iliescu-a-brfit-la-ambasada-sua-de-la-bucuresti-despre-studentii-din-piata-universitatii/>

R 231153Z JUN 95
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7939

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 BUCHAREST 006434

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINS](#) [RO](#)

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN PRESIDENT ION ILIESCU - A POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY

[1](#)1. CONFIDENTIAL-ENTIRE TEXT.

[1](#)2. SUMMARY: THIS IS THE FIRST OF TWO CABLES FOCUSING ON ROMANIAN PRESIDENT ION ILIESCU, AND COVERS HIS POLITICAL HISTORY THROUGH THE 1992 ELEC

[1](#)3. GIVEN THE TOTAL LACK OF ORGANIZED OPPOSITION GROUPS IN ROMANIA PRIOR TO THE REVOLUTION, ILIESCU HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO KEEP THE OLD BUREAUCRA

[1](#)4. GIVEN ILIESCU'S POLITICAL HISTORY AND OUR CLOSE OBSERVATION OF HIM OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, WE HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN BELIEVING THAT HE IS

[1](#)5. FROM COMMUNIST ORTHODOXY TO DISSIDENCE

ILIESCU CAME FROM A WORKING CLASS COMMUNIST BACKGROUND AND ROSE RAPIDLY THROUGH THE PARTY RANKS UNTIL HIS 1971 BREAK WITH CEAUSESCU. ILIESCU'S

[1](#)6. DESPITE HIS ORTHODOX COMMUNIST BACKGROUND AND RAPID RISE IN THE PARTY HIERARCHY, ILIESCU BEGAN TO CRITICIZE CEAUSESCU'S GROWING CULT OF PER

[1](#)7. ILIESCU STEPS INTO THE POST-REVOLUTIONARY LEADERSHIP VACUUM -----

DESPITE HIS YEARS IN THE POLITICAL WILDERNESS, ILIESCU WAS WELL-KNOWN AND POPULAR AMONG POLITICALLY ATTUNED ROMANIANS ON THE EVE OF THE 1989 RE

[1](#)8. COMMENT: OTHER INTERPRETATIONS OF THE 1989 REVOLUTION HAVE IT THAT ILIESCU AND LIKE-MINDED PARTY DISSIDENTS HAD EITHER BEEN PLOTTING A COUP

[1](#)9. TWO BAD YEARS

DUE TO THE LACK OF ORGANIZED ANTI-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION FORCES PRIOR TO THE REVOLUTION, ILIESCU HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO KEEP THE OLD POLITICAL

[1](#)10. ILIESCU AND THE NSF QUICKLY MOVED TO ESTABLISH CIVIL LIBERTIES AND A PLURALISTIC POLITICAL SYSTEM. HOWEVER, THE MAY 1990 ELECTIONS, IN WHI

[1](#)11. ILIESCU THEN COMPOUNDED HIS PROBLEMS BY MAKING THE WORST MISTAKE OF HIS POST-REVOLUTION CAREER - CALLING MINERS INTO BUCHAREST IN JUNE, 19

[1](#)12. COMMENT: ILIESCU HAS TOLD US THAT THE STUDENTS' PROTESTS OF SPRING 1990 WERE INSPIRED BY THE NEWLY REESTABLISHED HISTORICAL PARTIES - THE N

EGALITARIANISM WHICH CAME WITH POST-WWII COMMUNIST RULE AND THE RESTORATION OF THE PRE-WWII SOCIAL ORDER, AN ORDER MARKED IN ILIESCU'S VIEW (AN

13.COMMENT CONTINUED: AS ILIESCU PUT IT DURING THE 1992 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN - AND HE HAS NOT DEVIATED SINCE - HIS GOAL IS "A SOCIAL MARKET EC

[1](#)14. THE TURN OF THE TIDE

FOLLOWING THE FALL OF THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT, ILIESCU IMMEDIATELY TOOK THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF STEPS WHICH REESTABLISHED HIS CREDENTIALS AS A PC

15.COMMENT: MOST ANALYSTS HERE ATTRIBUTE ILIESCU'S 1992 VICTORY TO HIS COMBINATION OF DIGNITY, WHICH ROMANIANS EXPECT OF A PRESIDENT, AND A "CC

16.COMMENT CONTINUED: HOWEVER, ILIESCU IS NOW CAUGHT IN A POLITICAL VICE BETWEEN HIS PRO-REFORM, PRO-WESTERN POLICIES AND HIS POLITICAL BASE, W

[1](#)17. COMMENT CONTINUED: ILIESCU'S "COMMON MAN" ORIENTATION IS ALSO REFLECTED IN HIS PRIVATE LIFE. HE AND HIS WIFE ELENA, WHO HAS AN ENGINEERING